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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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May 9, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation - US-Argentine Relations

Attached for your information is a memorandum of conversation between Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski and Jose Martinez de Hoz, Minister of the Economy which took place on Tuesday, May 6, 1980.

Christine Dodson
Christine Dodson
Staff Secretary

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~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Argentina
Jose Martinez de Hoz, Minister of the Economy
Ambassador Jorge A. Aja Espil

United States
Zbigniew Brzezinski, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Thomas Thornton, Staff Member, National Security
Council

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, May 6, 1980
2:30-2:50 p.m.

PLACE: Dr. Brzezinski's Office

SUBJECT: US-Argentine Relations; Grain Sales; Soviet Politics (C)

Dr. Brzezinski opened by welcoming the warming trend in US-Argentine relations but stated his great concern about Argentine grain exports to the Soviet Union. He stressed the need to take tangible actions to show the depth of Western concern and resolve. This involves sacrifices, which we are making. Dr. Brzezinski went on to discuss in some detail the strategic meaning to the West of the Soviet move into Afghanistan -- affecting not only the immediate region but all of the non-communist world. The increase in Argentine grain sales diminishes the impact of Western pressure on the USSR and it is strange to see a country of Argentina's tradition playing such a role. Brzezinski closed by saying that he found frictions in US-Argentine relations to be unnatural and thus wanted to address the grain problem frankly. (C)

Martinez de Hoz reassured Dr. Brzezinski of Argentina's commitment to the West and went on to restate Argentina's rationale on its trade with the Soviet Union. In speaking of the Argentine-Soviet grain sales agreement, Martinez said that the figures involved would be less than 1980, which is recognized as a peak year. He urged that the focus of pressure on the Soviets not be limited to grain but be extended to such things as European sales of capital goods. He urged a global comprehensive policy against Communist expansion. (C)

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Declassify on May 6, 2010
Extended by Zbigniew Brzezinski
Reason for Extension: NSC 1.13(a)

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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Dr. Brzezinski observed that seeking a total solution often leads to no solution and noted that we are working with the Europeans to limit technology sales and tighten COCOM. He again returned to the question of Argentine grain sales noting that the growth had accelerated greatly this year and this made it harder for us to keep the other major suppliers on board. He urged Martinez to think about this problem not just in bilateral terms but in light of Argentina's role as a member of the West. It would be a pity if Argentina were seen by history to have played the same kind of role that France played when Hitler occupied the Rheinland. (C)

Martinez de Hoz said that Argentina wants to take a stand but frankly doubts that grain embargos will be effective. Brzezinski promised to supply information to Argentina to demonstrate that the embargo is being effective. (C)

Dr. Brzezinski agreed that there are problems for Argentina in implementing sanctions but said that more can always be done if there is determination. Argentina is, after all, one of the world's major countries and has a critical role to play. (C)

cc: Henry Owen
Tim Deal
Robert Pastor

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

UNCLASSIFIED~~w/CONFIDENTIAL Attachment~~

May 7, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: TOM THORNTON

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation - US-Argentine Relations

The attached is forwarded for your approval.

If you concur, I will also send it to State Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve distribution of this to the State Department.

Approve ✓ Disapprove

cc: Henry Owen
Tim Deal
Robert Pastor

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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